

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
Mission Statement**

"The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness."

**Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
West Hartford Town Hall
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 2, 2017
Room 217**

Minutes

Attendance

Krishna Adhikari	Present
Judith Borden, Chair	Present
Denise Jackson-Riley	Present
Pramod Prahan, Administrative Liaison	Present
Sarah Raskin	Present
Karyl Shaughnessy	Present
Judith Wyman Kelly	Present

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Judy Borden.

Attendance included a member of the public, Jeremy Pressman, therefore introductions were made

Karyl Shaughnessy moved and Judy Wyman Kelly seconded the approval of the minutes of the last meeting with no corrections or additions. This was passed unanimously.

Judy Borden reported that the Nepalese New Year's Celebration at the Portuguese Club of Newington was a great success. There were 500 people in attendance. The Ambassador to the UN was there.

There was a discussion of the resolution affirming West Hartford as a welcoming and inclusive town. Jeremy Pressman from the public presented the resolution to the commissioners, and reported that there had been minor changes, including the removal of specific mention of the Muslim community.

- Judy Wyman Kelly asked what the game plan was and what the time frame was. Jeremy brought some handouts with materials to highlight the issues in CT as well as an article on a judge about the travel ban, a description of the Trust Act and a copy of a bill that had been introduced to repeal the trust act.

- Judy Borden asked for description of Trust Act
- Karyl Shaughnessy asked what additional benefits would be seen on top of Trust Act, and the Mayor Proclamation. Jeremy explained that Trust Act had a specific purpose and only covered immigrants. This covers a longer list of protected groups.
- Judy Wyman Kelly spoke in support and commented that the groups covered are the same ones as is in the HRC mission statement.
- It was raised that Chuck Andrews had emailed an objection based on not wanting to ask the Town Council to do more programming given current budget constraints. Judy Wyman Kelly commented that no more resources will be needed because the programming mentioned is already happening.
- Krishna Adhikari asked Jeremy to outline what will happen if the resolution is not passed.
- Karyl Shaughnessy also raised the question of whether the Commission should be considering resolutions, and how to respond to other groups coming forward. In particular, how should the Commission decide if something has to do with Human Rights for all people. Judy Wyman Kelly suggested that we take each one on a case by case basis and always look at it through a human rights lens.

Judy Wyman Kelly moved, Sarah Raskin seconded that the Human Rights Commission endorse this resolution. The vote was five in favor, one abstained.

There was a discussion of the terminology used in the minutes of Absent versus Excused. It was decided that the Commission is not in a position to decide on which absences are should excused. It was agreed that in the future minutes will merely reflect which members are present.

Judy Borden reminded all members that dates for the coming year are already listed on calendar. She put forth a reminder to sign up for Park Road Parade.

There was a discussion of whether lengthy discussion items should be managed via email versus in-person meetings. It was agreed that most lengthy items are better done in person.

Pramod Praphan reported that the library resource page for immigrants & refugees website is almost done and will be ready to launch soon.

Judy Borden suggested we discuss the Charter of Compassion at our next meeting.

Sarah Raskin moved and Judy Wyman Kelly seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting will be June 6.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Raskin
May 22, 2017